

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SENV, GW

SUBJECT:BENZENE HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANT STANDARDS

REF: BONN 8532

1. PUBLIC MEETINGS WERE HELD LAST NOVEMBER AND THIS PAST FEBRUARY BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA), CONCERNING THE DESIGNATION OF BENZENE AS A HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANT. THESE MEETINGS WERE HELD AS A RESULT OF A PUBLIC COMMITMENT BY EPA. THREE DOCUMENTS WERE UTILIZED FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES AT THESE MEETINGS. THEY ARE CURRENTLY BEING REVISED AND WILL BE RELEASED THIS SUMMER. POST SHOULD PROVIDE DEPARTMENT WITH THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONTACT IN THE FRG MINISTRY FOR THE INTERIOR (BMI) AND EPA WILL FORWARD COPIES FOLLOWING THEIR RELEASE.

2. EPA IS CURRENTLY PREPARING A FOLLOW-UP NOTICE ON THE STATUS OF THE BENZENE HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANT STANDARD, BASED ON THE PUBLIC MEETINGS AND AGENCY DELIBERATIONS SINCE
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THAT TIME. A FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE DOCUMENTING THE AGENCY POSITION ON THIS TOPIC IS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLICATION THIS SUMMER.

3. EPA WILL BE DEVELOPING HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANT

STANDARDS FOR BENZENE. THE FIRST OF THESE STANDARDS IS

SCHEDULED FOR PROPOSAL THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1979. NOTICE
WILL APPEAR IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER TO BE FOLLOWED BY
PUBLIC HEARINGS ON EACH STANDARD, WHICH WILL CULMINATE IN
FINAL PROMULGATION. VANCE

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